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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Fabian DATE 8/5/83

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August 17, 1977

Dear Mr. Findley:

The Secretary has asked me to thank you for your letter of August 3 concerning a recent newspaper column on our claim against Israel in connection with the U.S.S. Liberty incident of June 1967.

The Government of Israel has discharged fully the claims of individuals and a small U.S. Government claim arising from this incident. The Department of State has pressed the remaining claim, for compensation for physical damage to the vessel itself, on a number of occasions. The Israeli Government denied responsibility but offered to pay a nominal sum which was rejected. During the past few years this claim has been permitted to remain outstanding, but the Department of State maintains that the claim is a valid obligation of the Government of Israel.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Correspondence Returned.

The Honorable,
Paul Findley,
House of Representatives.

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